

## **DOC/KDFWR Grass Drill Program**

### **State Agencies Combine Resources To Provide Specialized Conservation Equipment to Landowners:**

The Kentucky Division of Conservation (KDOC) and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) have once again joined forces to provide specialized conservation equipment to landowners. This is part of a program that promotes the benefits of planting native warm season grasses (NWSG) and encourages private landowner participation. It was designed to provide equipment and information about incorporating native warm season grasses into livestock and other agriculture operations. The project targets priority objectives of both agencies. It promotes conservation tillage and other pasture and hay-land planting and best management practices. It provides added value and benefits to the producers' livestock and other agriculture operations and it simultaneously enhances the value of the producers' hay-lands and pasture for wildlife.

The program focuses on the need to educate landowners on the benefits to livestock and wildlife and provides and makes available to the private landowner, through conservation districts, specialized equipment capable of handling the fluffy NWSG seeds in addition to other cool season grasses, grains and legumes. The KDFWR identified and made available a limited amount of money that could be used to cost share on the purchase of no-till drills (\$150,000.00). By utilizing the KDOC Equipment Revolving Loan Program the KDFWR will provide the required one-third down payment (up to \$4850.00) to conservation districts interested in obtaining a no-till drill through the loan program. These drills must be fully equipped with grain/cool season boxes, legume boxes and fluffy or native warm season boxes. The Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission has available low interest loans to finance the remaining two thirds of the purchase price for these drills. You can find detailed information on the Division of Conservation's Equipment Revolving Fund @Equipment [Loan Fact Sheet](#).

Reporting is a very important requirement of this program. The data collected is used to create databases to help track progress being made toward the implementation of conservation and best management practices. Special reporting requirements of this program will gather information to track progress being made toward the incorporation of native warm season grasses into livestock and other agriculture operations.

The DOC/KDFWR Grass Drill Program will extend and districts can apply through the period of July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2006 or until the allotted \$150,000.00 is obligated. This is an excellent opportunity for conservation districts and landowners. Landowners should contact the local conservation district office in their county to inquire as to the availability and specific details and to schedule a date to use this equipment.

If you need additional information on this project, please feel free to contact Curtis M. Kirk, Assistant Director, KDOC at 502-573-3080 or by e-mail at [curtis.kirk@ky.gov](mailto:curtis.kirk@ky.gov).